[28th February 1929

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have called for the papers and will consider the question of laying them on the table after they have been received.

(*d*) As the disafforestation was made expressly to enable an Adi-Dravida settlement to be founded, the Government do not propose to instruct the Collector in the sense suggested.

Assignment of lands on the Shevaroy Hills.

* 1555 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any applications were made for assignment of lands on the Shevaroy Hills within the last five years;

(*b*) the names and the extent applied for by each;

(*c*) whether the applications in each case have been granted or refused or are still pending consideration;

(*d*) the purpose for which these lands were required;

(*e*) the total extent of land already assigned; and

(*f*) the extent still remaining unassigned?

A.—(*a*) No such applications are traceable in the Government records.

(*b*) *to* (*f*) These questions do not arise.

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU:—" With reference to clauses (*e*) and (*f*), may I know what extent of land was available for assignment and what portion of it was actually assigned?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—" We cannot trace any records relating to assignment. If the hon. Member wishes information as to the area lying waste available for assignment, I shall be glad to gather the information."

Assignment of grazing grounds in Chatrap village.

* 1556 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to question No. 1350 answered on 1st February 1929 regarding assignment of grazing grounds in Chatrap village, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to place before the Council the report called for on the above question and the orders that have been passed thereon?

A.—The report has not yet been received.

Alleged disabilities of the Catholic churches in South Kanara.

* 1557 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, with reference to question No. 353 answered on 8th October 1928, regarding the alleged disabilities of the Catholic churches in South Kanara in acquiring darkhast lands—

(*a*) on what authority and by whom Government have been advised that property of all Roman Catholic churches in South Kanara is vested in the Pope; and

(*b*) whether the opinion given is that the churches are vested in the Pope as owner or as Supreme Administrator?

A.—(a) The Government have been advised to this effect by their legal advisers.

(b) Legal opinion has not been given on this specific point.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know what authority has been quoted by the legal adviser for this opinion ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not know what authority has been cited ; but I think they gave it on the basis of their knowledge and qualifications as lawyers."

Court of Wards

Management of the Sivaganga Zamindari.

* 1558 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Zamindar of Sivaganga attained his majority some years ago and, if so, when ;

(b) whether the zamindar has expressed a desire to take charge of the zamindari and, if so, when ;

(c) whether the Court of Wards is managing the zamindari in spite of objections from the zamindar and others and, if so, why ; and

(d) whether there is any proposal before the Government regarding the management of the zamindari and, if so, to what effect ?

A.—(a) The zamindar attained his majority in 1909.

(b) Yes. In October 1928.

(c) The estate is under the management of the Court of Wards not because of the minority of the proprietor but because of his infirmity. The Government are disposed to think that the proprietor may now be placed in charge of the estate ; but, under the provisions of section 57 of the Court of Wards Act, it is not admissible for the Court of Wards to release the estate until certain debts due by the estate have been repaid. Orders have been issued that these debts should be repaid at the earliest practicable date.

(d) No.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" With regard to clause (c), may I know what this gentleman's infirmity is ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not catch the point."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" With regard to clause (c), may I know what this gentleman's infirmity is ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I am sorry the hon. Member should ask this question. It is not a pleasant thing to mention the infirmities of a person . . ."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I am sorry this question is considered improper. It is based upon knowledge and information ; and the very fact that Government have resolved to release the estate after certain debts due by the estate had been repaid shows that all the story about the so-called infirmities is fiction and a myth. May I know what is the amount of the debt that remains to be discharged ? "